UNITED NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1995/35
21 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Annual session 1995
5-16 June 1995, New York
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
UNDP

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

UNDP: The role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report is submitted to the Executive Board in accordance with paragraph 4 of its decision 94/13 of 9 June 1994.

II. UNDP SUPPORT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990S

A. General

2. In response to paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 46/151 calling for additional resources for the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), UNDP launched project RAF/93/004/A/01/51: Support for Monitoring the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) in 1993, the project is designed to:

(a) Provide monitoring of networks and strengthening mechanisms for strategic policy dialogue on Africa through the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);

(b) Reinforce the Office of the Special Coordinator of Assistance to Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL);

(c) Provide support to Africa Recovery magazine to enable a wider coverage and dissemination of information regarding African development.

B. Activities and achievements in 1994

3. Coordination with the United Nations system. UNDP is an active member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development. In this capacity, UNDP participated in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the preliminary consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda (A/48/33) submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session and was subsequently involved in the revision of the United Nations system-wide Plan of Action.

4. Support to the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development. UNDP continued to participate actively in efforts by the Panel to build international consensus on priority issues on African economic recovery and development, such as the role of African non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in development, African debt, human resources development, agriculture, trade, peace, stability and security in Africa. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, served as Secretary to the Panel.

5. Tokyo International Conference on African Development. UNDP participated in the preparation of the Conference, which was held on 5 to 6 October 1993. As follow-up, UNDP and OSCAL worked closely together in the organization of the Africa-Asia Forum in Bandung in December 1994.

6. African Economic Community. UNDP continued to extend assistance to the joint secretariat of the Organization of African Unity/Economic Commission for Africa/African Development Bank (OAU/ECA/AfDB) in its efforts to implement the Abuja Treaty. Activities that were supported included strengthening the joint secretariat itself, rationalization and harmonization of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and the various regional economic communities and the finalization of the African Economic Community protocols.

7. Capacity-building and long-term strategic planning. Under the multi-donor funded African Capacity-Building Initiative (ACBI), which aims at strengthening regional and national capacities to formulate and manage national economic policies and programmes, support was extended to key training institutions in several countries, including Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The report of the mid-term evaluation of ACBI will be submitted to the Executive Board in 1995. Long-term strategic planning is being supported by the National Long-Term Perspective Studies (NLTPS) programme and four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritius) are expected to complete the exercise in 1995; others, including Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, have also embarked on the exercise. The report of the recently held mid-term evaluation of NLTPS will be submitted to the Executive Board in 1995.

8. Private sector development. The promotion of the private sector to increase its productivity, saving and investment is a key element for socio-economic growth. The African Project-Development Facility (APDF),

co-sponsored by UNDP, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and bilateral donors completed 130 projects in 25 countries. The African Management Services Company (AMSCO), which supports management strengthening and training restructured its programmes in 1993 and made more progress in 1994. Since 1993, UNDP has provided support to the Caisse française de développement in setting up an investment guarantee fund for West Africa.

9. Other UN-NADAF-related support. In the area of human resources development, UNDP helped several countries, including Botswana, Cameroon, Gambia, Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi and Namibia, to focus on operationalizing the sustainable human development concept. In its support to the environment in 1994, UNDP supported initiatives such as Capacity 21 and coordinated its interventions with those of other partners, including the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) on desertification; the Africa 2000 Network on grass-roots activities in the management of natural resources; and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) mainly on activities related to biodiversity conservation and the protection of coastal areas from pollution.

10. OSCAL. UNDP provided (a) partial funding for the workshop on NGOs and African development organized by OSCAL in January 1995 and (b) support for a study on the development of the African informal sector.

III. IMPACT OF UNDP SUPPORT

11. By supporting the three United Nations entities involved in the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the UN-NADAF (OSCAL/(DPCSD), ECA, Department of Public Information (DPI)/Africa Recovery magazine), UNDP has contributed in ensuring the effective implementation of UN-NADAF and to keep African economic recovery and development a top priority of the United Nations.

12. UNDP has endeavoured to build a consensus around important development issues in Africa and to promote the creation of an environment that supports Africa's own efforts to achieve growth and development. All of these, in turn, help to facilitate the implementation of the UN-NADAF in individual countries.

13. By redesigning the country programmes to make them more focused on priority issues identified in UN-NADAF, UNDP is responding to the call to development partners to support this initiative.